

**PROCESS AND TIMELINES FOR REVISING HATCHERY PROGRAMS
COMPLETING PUGET SOUND NEPA REVIEW
AND PROVIDING INPUT FOR THE PUGET SOUND SHARED STRATEGY
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We are providing this document to clarify the process for implementing and tracking hatchery reform under the federally-authorized Hatchery Reform Initiative, and how it conforms to other hatchery review and change efforts by the co-managers.

We have highlighted upcoming milestones for revising hatchery programs at the end of this paper in the “Preliminary Tasks & Time-Frames” section. This timeline (through Winter 2005) presents some of the elements associated with hatchery reform, including:

- The Hatchery Reform Initiative and the co-manager regional review of Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) recommendations.
- NOAA Fisheries’ (NOAAF) reviews of Puget Sound hatchery management plans for Endangered Species Act authorization under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Puget Sound Shared Strategy process that is intended to create recovery plans for Puget Sound Chinook salmon, Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca summer chum salmon.

Hatchery Reform Initiative

A major step in implementing hatchery reform is regional meetings between co-managers that will result in new agreements on enhancement programs in each region. The new regional agreements will be used to modify the Future Brood Document (FBD) and hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMPs) and to develop joint monitoring plans, following the framework and guidelines developed by the co-manager staff and the framework of the co-managers’ Hatchery Resource Management Plans (RMPs), which describe the process for adaptive management of hatcheries. The region-specific meetings will occur between June and December 2004.

To be successful, the meetings require careful planning and coordination, including introducing new decision making and monitoring tools to co-manager technical staffs and engaging policy makers.

- Coordination—On May 18, the co-managers on the Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee (HRCC) will meet with the facilitation team to develop a plan for completing the regional co-manager reconciliation process. Each regional meeting requires compilation of recommendations, descriptions of current FBD programs and other existing production agreements.
- Tool Development—An HSRG and co-manager technical group has developed tools and a description of the conceptual approach to key hatchery reform topics. In addition, the co-managers have developed a draft spreadsheet (attached) for tracking changes to hatchery programs.

- Introduction of Tools—The HSRG, tribal and WDFW technical staffs will meet on June 10 to discuss region-wide issues and the tools that the HSRG and co-managers staffs have developed to help address these issues. This technical meeting will provide input for the co-manager policy level meeting that will be scheduled for mid June to kick off the regional reconciliation process. WDFW, many of the tribes, and the HSRG believe that additional, region-specific technical meetings to demonstrate use of these tools and to transfer other scientific knowledge would be useful as a prelude to the regional co-manager reconciliation meetings.
- Policy Engagement—In June, co-manager policy representatives will meet to initiate the regional reviews. This broad policy level meeting will be used to agree on the purposes and expected outcomes of the regional co-managers meetings, the level of HSRG involvement and the scope of facilitation services to be used to compile information and ensure consensus.

ESA and NEPA Review

We anticipate that these changes to the HGMPs and RMPs will be consistent with the Alternative chosen by NOAAF in their Record of Decision (ROD). Updated HGMPs will reflect the most current operation of hatchery programs, NOAAF 4(d) review, EIS and HGMP comments, and be reflected in the annual co-management FBD planning.

All changes made to the HGMPs will be consistent with the adaptive management framework described in the RMP and analyzed in the EIS. This adaptive management framework describes mechanisms and measures for incorporating future hatchery reform changes into the FBD, HGMP and RMPs. The imbedded adaptive management framework for adjusting the hatchery plans consistent with the hatchery reform initiative will therefore be a part of the proposed actions evaluated through the NOAA Fisheries NEPA and ESA review processes initiated in March, 2004. NOAA Fisheries expects to publish a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to meet NEPA compliance requirements for its ESA determinations regarding the hatchery plans by June 2005 and a Final EIS (FEIS) in December 2005. Any substantial changes (i.e. outside the scope of the adaptive management framework) to the RMPs and/or HGMPs made after publishing the DEIS or FEIS may result in the need to complete a Supplemental EIS.

Shared Strategy

The Puget Sound Technical Recovery Team (TRT) will be reviewing all the individual watershed chapters of the Puget Sound draft recovery plan and providing initial comments to the watershed recovery planning groups during July-September. This review includes the integration of hatchery, harvest, and habitat actions and their effects on salmon recovery. In most cases, this timeframe will allow co-managers to consider the TRT's comments during the regional co-manager reconciliation meetings before the final chapters of the recovery plan are due in 2005.

PRELIMINARY TASKS & TIME-FRAMES

JUNE – DECEMBER 2004 (Co manager's Program Reconciliation)

- ▶ Each region will complete the reconciliation process and identify agreed elements for implementation
 - Agreements will identify monitoring needs
- ▶ Facilitation team, co-managers and HSRG will compile available documents on current production, HSRG recommendations and provide modeling and other expertise.
- ▶ Co-managers will each create a “spreadsheet/database” for long term tracking of changes in hatchery operations.
- ▶ Demonstrate models and other tools for ongoing use in modifying hatchery operations, risk assessments and adaptive management

JANUARY 2005 – JUNE 2005 (Implementation)

- ▶ FBD, HGMPs and RMPs will be modified as appropriate, by June 2005
- ▶ Tracking spreadsheet/database will track agreements and operational changes
- ▶ Continue implementation of changes that don't require additional resources
- ▶ Implement changes with new available resources
- ▶ Identify additional resources required to implement each agreed element and continue prioritization processes that provide rankings for implementation
- ▶ Identify research needs, data management and/or modeling issues that address unresolved issues or are needed for implementation of adaptive management
- ▶ Implement public education campaign that highlights multitude of hatchery reform changes already implemented

JULY 2005 – DECEMBER 2005 (Final EIS/4d approval process)

- ▶ If major changes are made to the HGMPs and/or RMPs as a result of the hatchery reform process, a supplemental DEIS will be drafted.
- ▶ Continue implementation as resources become available
- ▶ Implement research needs, data management and/or modeling issues that address unresolved issues or are needed for implementation of adaptive management
- ▶ Continue public education campaign that highlights multitude of hatchery reform changes already implemented